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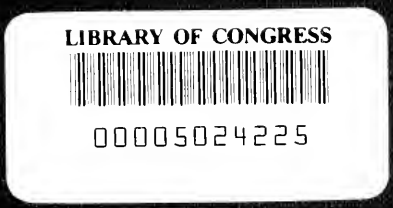

SENATOR GRUNDY'S

POLITICAL CONDUCT

REVIEWED.

BY CHARLES BIDDLE.

Nashville:
REPUBLICAN AND GAZETTE OFFICE.
1832.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Every man who obtrudes his private concerns upon the people and solicits their attention to subjects in which they apparently have but little or no concern, owes it to himself and the community he addresses, to assign a satisfactory reason for his intrusion. The present appeal to your patient attention is not, however, altogether of a private nature, but in some degree involves the character and conduct of the President of the United States, and a Senator from the State of Tennessee. I shall, therefore, endeavor by a plain statement of facts, to satisfy the reflecting part of the community, that great injustice has been done both to the President and myself; and if, in exhibiting the proof, it should happen that censure attaches to others, it must result solely from the nature of the transactions which it may be necessary to develope.

About one year ago, some of the most distinguished men in this state, who were my political friends, strenuously urged me to become the conductor of a public press in this City, and they so far flattered my vanity as to state their belief of my ability to conduct a public journal with credit to myself and benefit to the people. Before acceding to these solicitations, I requested a personal friend of mine to address a letter to the President requesting to know whether it was his intention, (as he had once stated) to nominate me to any office under the government.

To this letter my friend received an answer stating that the President intended appointing me a Judge in Florida. *I requested him to say to the President that it was an office which I would not accept.* As I have since learned that this answer was never communicated to the President, it is necessary, in order to prove my determination upon this subject, to state, that it was only three days after the receipt of the President's letter that I advertised proposals for issuing a newspaper to be called the "Tennessee Reporter." My personal friends all knew of my determination to decline the office designated for me by the President; they knew that my subsequent abandonment of the press arose from family considerations not necessary now to be discussed; and they also know, that so far as regards pecuniary interest there never has been a newspaper established in the western country with fairer prospects of enriching its proprietor. Entertaining such views relative to the Judgeship of Florida, it may readily be imagined that I felt no very great regret at the rejection of my nomination. Indeed, so indifferent did I feel upon the subject, that although I have relatives and friends in Congress, who could have furnished the information, yet I have never enquired, nor do I at this moment, know the majority by which the nomination was rejected, *nor the name of a single Senator who voted against it.*

As I occasionally visit the City of Washington, it would have afforded me pleasure to remain in the same state of ignorance, if Mr. Grundy had not publicly avowed his support of my nomination, and assigned reasons for his conduct which appear altogether unworthy of a Senator. At the present moment, whilst an important election is pending, it is peculiarly unpleasant to be compelled to expose the duplicity of a man who founds his whole claim for public support upon the ground of his rigid ad-

hesion to the present administration of the general government. It is not my intention, however, to travel out of the record for the purpose of criminating Mr. Grundy, but I shall endeavor to keep steadily in view the main object of this address—which is, to vindicate the President from the foul imputation which the Senator has endeavored to fasten upon him, *of nominating an unworthy and unfit man for an important public station.* In order to complete this design it will be proper for me to enter into a detailed statement of some facts, which, I fear, will be uninteresting to the reader, but are rendered necessary for a correct understanding of the motives and actions of the parties concerned.

If I shall succeed in shewing that the President nominated me to office *at the request of Mr. Grundy himself* and that his subsequent outrageous conduct towards the President and myself was produced by the most malignant feelings arising from my political opposition to him, I shall then have exhibited him to the public in a most unenviable position.

During the late warmly contested canvas for Senator of the United States, it is well known to the citizens of this community that I not only felt, but expressed deep anxiety for the success of Major Eaton; but I am not aware that either in writing or speaking upon the subject, I exceeded the bounds within which all political discussions should be circumscribed. Having thus confined myself to a fair and legitimate opposition to Messrs. Grundy and Foster, I had a right to expect from those gentlemen to be met by arguments or proofs going to shew the superiority of their claims over those of Major Eaton, or at least, that they would have avoided the use of uncourteous language towards those who differed from them in opinion. So far as regards Col. Foster and his friends, my expectations

were fully realized; but I regret to say that a different course was pursued by Mr. Grundy. About three weeks before the day fixed upon for the election, I learned from a variety of sources, that Mr. Grundy, for purposes best known to himself, had spoken of me in such terms as I considered not warranted by our relative situations before the public. It appeared to me that the same delicacy of feeling which prompted me, (out of respect for his official station,) to restrain myself from too rigid an enquiry into his *private character*, ought to have prevented him from exercising an influence which he derived solely from that station, for the purpose of injuring a private citizen. It is now decided to postpone the election; but as the part which I took in the matter has been variously represented, and not always correctly, I deem it proper to submit some documents for public inspection, and to add a few explanatory remarks. In taking this step, my sole object is to vindicate myself against vile aspersions without the slightest view of aggravating the wounds which have been recently inflicted upon others.

The first letter in the series which I shall publish, is one written by myself to the gentleman who communicated to me, confidentially, the course of conduct which Mr. Grundy was pursuing in order to weaken the effect of my opposition to him; and my reason for enclosing in that letter the recommendations of the members of Congress from Pennsylvania and Tennessee, arose from the circumstance of Mr. Grundy's having denied (as was reported) that his signature was attached to that paper. Of his denial I have no positive evidence; but *I do know* that whilst the President was lately in the neighbourhood of Nashville, it was so stated to him by a gentleman of Tennessee, and the answer of the President rendered it *prudent* for Mr. Grundy to abandon that position if he had ever before assumed it.

My dislike to Senator Grundy was originally founded upon considerations altogether of a public nature, and arose from a settled conviction of the instability of his political character, and his entire destitution, as I thought, of every thing like fixed principles of government. I viewed him as a politician who adopted neither the motto of "principles—not men," nor of "principles and men," nor of "men and not principles." On the contrary, I considered him prepared at all hazards to support *the interests of Felix Grundy—principle or no principle.* With such impressions I could never consent to yield him my support for any office.

Letter from Charles Biddle, to —— —— Esquire.

NASHVILLE, 10th September, 1832.

DEAR SIR;—You stated to me in conversation this morning, that Mr. Felix Grundy had asserted that his vote in the Senate of the United States upon my nomination was given with reluctance and solely to gratify the President. I have since learned that he claims considerable merit, and founds a large portion of his demands upon the Jackson party in consequence of his always voting in the Senate for all the "President's Bobtail Nominations, whether right or wrong." It must at once have occurred to a gentleman of your discernment, that such a course of conduct pursued from such motives was not calculated to elevate the character of a Senator chosen to represent the interests and dignity of the state of Tennessee; but there is another reflection which may not immediately have occurred to you, which is, that such remarks have a tendency to bring General Jackson and his administration into disrepute. My own opinion is, that the Hero of New Orleans requires no "*bob-tails*," but is able without such factitious aids to soar far above all his enemies, whether they combine under the shallow pretensions of National Republicanism or the traitorous appellation of Nullifiers. It is not my intention at present to enter

into a discussion as to the dangers to be apprehended from the South Carolina doctrine, nor to expose the names of men in our own state, who, without sufficient courage openly to encounter public odium, have subserviency enough to shield themselves behind the High Priest of the Nullification party. Although no man places a higher estimate than I do upon those affectionate feelings which arise from consanguinity, yet I think, Mr. Grundy, as a public officer, ought to consult his country's safety, instead of sacrificing the Union to gratify his kinsman (Mr. John C. Calhoun.) A crisis in our national affairs is fast approaching which threatens destruction to the fairest fabric which was ever reared upon the foundations of liberty and the rights of man. Are we prepared to lend a hand in undermining this beautiful building? Shall we pull down twenty-four splendid columns erected with the most perfect symetry, merely to gratify an idle curiosity, to look upon the chaos which must inevitably result from our own folly? God forbid! Let us then remember that the state of Tennessee is enabled by her geograpical position and physical power to give a strong tone to public feeling and a direction to the political movements of the Southern states; which facts are perfectly understood by the nullification party in South Carolina. It is owing to these circumstances that the proceedings of our Legislature are viewed with such intense anxiety by Carolina; and it is considered in that state that our approaching election for Senator will unequivocally decide whether Tennessee does or does not respond in sentiment to the President, that "the Union must be preserved."

But, my dear sir, I have been, unawares, led into a discussion upon the subject of nullification, when I only intended saying a few words about Mr Grundy; and the only apology I have to offer is, that the two subjects are so intimately connected in the public mind that it is difficult to sever them. I shall now say something about Mr. Grundy, and in doing this it will be necessary to introduce my own name. In the month of February 1830, I was invited to a party at Judge Hemphill's in Washington City, where I met a number of my old Pennsylvania friends; and in the course of conversation I stated, that I had that day, for the first time in my life, offered my

services to the President of the United States in any station he might assign me, without designating any particular office. The question was at once asked, whether I had presented any recommendations; in answer to which I stated, that as the President was personally and intimately acquainted with me, I deemed such documents unnecessary, and at the same time expressed my decided conviction of the utter inutility of recomdations in cases where the executive and the applicant were known to each other. My friends thought otherwise, as will appear by the annexed papers. To one of those papers you will find the name of Mr. Grundy, and as it is said that he has recently connected my name with what he calls "Jackson's bob-tail nominations," you must indulge me whilst I state the origin of his bitter hostility towards me. About one year ago, whilst the names of Messrs. Foster and Grundy were before the people as candidates for Senator, there appeared in the newspapers several severe strictures upon Mr. Grundy's dubious political course and a direct charge made against him of favoring the South Carolina doctrine of nullification. He called upon me and entreated, with the most abject servility, that I would become his Champion and defend him through the newspapers against these attacks—*an office which I very civilly declined.* I not only refused to become his advocate, but with the best of my feeble powers endeavored to expose his political errors. But this is not the whole head and front of my offending: for during the last session of the legislature a violent effort was made by Mr. Grundy and his friends to bring on the senatorial election; but it so happened they failed, and this failure they ascribed, in a great measure, to the arguments urged through the public presses of the country; and the sin of penning those arguments was, very justly, laid at my door. From that time until the present hour, Mr. Grundy has been unable to conceal his inveterate hatred towards me, which has been aggravated of late by a very strong suspicion that I would prefer a change in the senatorial officer. If, under such circumstances, he had claimed merit for voting, as a Senator, in favor of a *personal foe*, it is possible that his claims might have been admitted even by some of those who were aware of the insidious artifices to which he resorted in order to defeat a

measure which he was apparently anxious to promote. But when Mr. Grundy publicly announces that he voted for an incompetent man for office, merely because the President nominated him, then I think the Senator not only digraces himself, but is willing to sacrifice *State pride* and *State rights*, which have heretofore been considered as peculiarly under the protection of the senatorial branch of the National Legislature.

Although I scorn Felix Grundy's malignity, and smile at his folly, yet so great is my pity for the man that I am willing to extend towards him the most sincere forgiveness for the injuries he has attempted to inflict upon me, leaving him to settle in the best way he can with the Jackson party, for his sneers about the President's "*bob-tail nominations*."

I am your friend,

CHALES BIDDLE.

[The following letter from the Honorable Geo. G. Leiper, Jos. Hemphill and T. H. Crawford, was enclosed in the foregoing.]

Washington City, 27th February, 1830.

To Charles Biddle, Esq.

Dear Sir—After the conversation which took place between you and ourselves, a few evenings since, in relation to your application to the President, we consulted together upon the matter, and concluded that a recommendation could do no harm if it did no good. In accordance with that opinion we proceeded to act, and have now the pleasure of enclosing a paper, signed by the greater part of the members of Congress, composing the Delegation from Pennsylvania. We did not deem it necessary to go beyond the Delegation from your native state. If the President entertained the same views of your qualifications which we and your other old friends and associates entertain, he would give you an early call to prominent public service.

We are, with sentiments of sincere regard, very respectfully, yours,

GEO. G. LEIPER,
[Signed] JOSEPH HEMPHILL,
T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD.

The following is a copy of the paper enclosed in the foregoing letter.

To His Excellency Andrew Jackson,
President of the United States

Sir;—We understand that Charles Biddle, Esquire, is an applicant for office under the general government. Your own knowledge of him will, of course, point out the situation in which he would be most useful. Many of us are personally and intimately acquainted with him, and all of us know his character. He is a gentleman of talents and integrity; of capacity fully equal to the discharge of most duties; and of principles which will ensure fidelity and the best application of his powers to any trust. We hope that his being a native citizen of Pennsylvania, and an adopted son of Tennessee, will not weaken his claims to the favorable consideration either of the public or yourself.

[Signed,]
Joseph Hemphill,
George G. Leiper,
T. Hartley Crawford,
Thomas Irwin,
Sam. A. Smith,
Peter Ihrie, jr.
Hen. A. Muhlenburg,
Harmar Denny,
Philander Stephens,
James Ford,
Joshua Evans,
John Gilmore,
C. Forward,
R. Coulter,
W. Ramsey,
John Scott,
Daniel H. Miller,
Adam King,
Jos. Fry, jr.
Innis Green,
Wm. McCreery.

Letter from C. Biddle to the President.

Washington City, 12*th March*, 1830.

To the President of the U. S.

Sir;—I take the liberty of enclosing a paper which has just been handed to me, and which, your Excellency will perceive, is signed by all the members of Congress from Tennessee except two. I shall be pleased if this letter and the one which I forwarded to you a few days since, from the Pennsylvania delegation, should produce a favorable impression upon your mind. Whether these two documents will promote the main object

for which they were intended or not, I shall ever remember with pleasure and pride the kind feelings and good motives which actuated my friends in presenting them to me. Knowing how much of your time has been recently engaged in public affairs, I have abstained from obtruding myself upon your society so often as my own inclinations would have prompted; but I shall shortly ask a few moments conversation before leaving this city.

I have the honor to be,

Your most ob't. servant,

CHARLES BIDDLE.

P. S. Mr. Bell, who handed me the enclosed letter, informs me that he called twice at Senator White's lodgings, but did not find him at home.

Copy of the paper enclosed in the foregoing letter.

To the President of the United States;

The undersigned, members of the Tennessee delegation, to whom Mr. Biddle, of Nashville, is known personally or by character, beg leave to represent that they consider him a gentleman of honor and talents; and that he possesses qualifications well adapted to the discharge of the duties of *any office* which the President's own personal acquaintance with him may enable him to designate as one in which Mr. Biddle may be most useful to his country. We will add, that it will be gratifying to us if Mr. Biddle should be employed under the government.

[Signed,] FELIX GRUNDY,
John Bell,
James K. Polk,
J. C. Isaacks,
D. Crockett,
Pryor Lea,
James Blair,
James Standifer,
Cave Johnson.

Let us now return to Mr. Grundy and the late Senatorial election.

After learning from several gentlemen, the unwarrantable use which Mr. Grundy was making of my name, I addressed him the following note.

To the Hon. Felix Grundy;

Sir;—It was with much surprise and deep regret that I learned, on Monday last, that my name had been used by you in a disrespectful manner, which I scarcely expected from a gentleman of your exalted public station. The expressions attributed to you are so variously stated, that I am unwilling to believe them to the extent reported; but shall, at present, content myself by stating one of them. It is said that, in order to prove your attachment to General Jackson, you declared that you had, as Senator of the United States, voted for all his "bob-tail nominations, even including Charles Biddle;" adding at the same time, some opprobrious epithets towards me personally. I scarcely know how the name of so obscure an individual as myself, holding no public office, could have been introduced into a discussion upon important state affairs; and it is with a view of ascertaining the facts in the case that I address you this note.

Your ob't. servant,

CHARLES BIDDLE.

Nashville, 12*th September*, 1832.

To the foregoing letter I received the following answer; and 'altho' it is not my intention to criticise the chaste and beautiful style of the ***Jocular Senator***, yet the substantial parts of his letter will be hereafter noticed, and therefore I claim for it an attentive perusal.

September 12, 1832.

Sir—I have received your note of to-day, and in my turn express my surprise; that Jocular remarks should be reported by those who heard them as matters of serious import—all that was said was in a Jocular way and the report made to

you very different from what occurred. I never said in earnest or in JEST that I had voted for all "the President's bob tail nominations even including Charles Biddle" *or any thing of the like kind.* When rallied upon the superior claims of others on the score of attachment to the administration I said I had as good evidence on my side, and among other JOCULAR remarks I observed I had voted for your nomination as Judge of Florida, *meaning that I had done so upon very slight evidence of your qualifications for the office. I have no recollection of using or applying any opprobrious epithets to you personally.* Governor Carroll was present and I refer to him, his recollection may be more perfect than mine. While on this subject I will remark two winters before your nomination was made, the Tennessee and Pennsylvania delegation (myself of the number) with very few exceptions recommended you to the President *as a man of character and talents* but said nothing (I believe) in reference to your legal attainments or qualifications for a judicial station. *Your character* and the President's nomination induced me to vote for you. Yours with respect,

F. GRUNDY.

To CHARLES BIDDLE, Esq.

After receiving from a Senator of the United States so positive a denial of his having used or applied any opprobrious epithets to me, and an assurance that my character formed an inducement for his voting in my favor, it may appear strange to those who reside at a distance from Nashville, that I should not have been perfectly satisfied with Mr. Grundy's explanation. But so it is (and most unfortunately for the Senator it is so) that my calling for additional evidence in this case created no surprise *here* where his character is well known. If it should be asked why I am not satisfied with Mr. Grundy's declaration, my answer is that the testimony opposed to him is so strong, both as to number and great respectability of the witnesses, that it would prevail and be triumphant in any court of justice in opposition to the

unsupported recollections of any single witness, however exalted his official station might be. In a long list of witnesses whom I might summon to disprove Mr. Grundy's assertions upon this occasion are to be found the names of

The Honorable F. W. Huling, Speaker of the H. of R.
Dixon Allen Esq. member of do.
Lucius J. Polk, member of the Senate.
Gen. R. Cheatham, member of the H. R.
Col. Boling Gordon, do do
Maj. Charles Watkins, do do

all of them men to whom Mr. Grundy would yield his entire confidence in every thing unconnected with politics. From these gentlemen I have letters which I will proceed to lay before the public. It will be perceived that in copying those letters I have omitted some of the slanderous words used by Mr. Grundy, because altho' false, and known at the time they were uttered to be so, yet Mr. Grundy clothed them in language as unfit for the public eye as they were deemed by those who heard them unfit for the public ear. The reader, however, can conceive what would be the ravings of an ambitious politician upon finding an active opponent where he expected to meet a warm and zealous friend in a closely contested election. His style is said to have been marked by all the graces of a Mississippi boatman, and his words flowed with that volubility, variety, beauty and harmony which so peculiarly distinguish the ladies of the London Fish Market, which cause a smile but create no belief in the listener. The reader is requested in perusing these letters to pay particular attention to Mr. Grundy's doctrine about *oaths* as I intend making a few remarks upon that subject.

House of Representatives, Sept. 17, 1832.

Dear Sir—Your note of this date desiring to know the substance of certain remarks made to me by Mr. Grundy in relation to your character and standing has been received, and in reply I will observe that between Mr. Grundy and myself *personally* no conversation of that kind ever took place. The conversation to which you allude was in the House of Representatives some eight or ten days since in presence I believe of Gen. Cheatham, Mr. Dixon Allen, Bailey Peyton and myself. At the time Mr. Grundy approached as we were conversing I think on the subject of the approaching Senatorial election, when Mr. Grundy observed that he had just heard that his *Jacksonism* was questioned; meaning as I supposed his want of devotion to the cause of the Administration. He observed that he thought it would be difficult for any person to give stronger evidence than he had done, as he had voted to sustain the nomination of * Biddle before the Senate, at the same time addressing himself to Mr. Foster who was near, and asking him if *he* (Mr. F.) could cite stronger evidences in his favor. He also observed that even if he were disposed to deny the extent to which he had gone he could not do it as his votes were on record to show for themselves.

Whether these remarks were made in a jocular way or not, I am unable to say, but thought at the time, perhaps they were, as the general tenor of the conversation was of that character. I further recollect that I thought the expression an imprudent one, and felt surprised that it was made under any circumstances. I may be mistaken as to the *precise* words but know them to be nearly correct.

Having no other interest in this matter other than a perfect regard to truth, I have felt it due in compliance with your request to give the information asked for.

I am very respectfully,

Dear Sir your ob't. servant,

B. GORDON.

To Charles Biddle, Esq.

Representative Hall, 18th September 1832.

Dear Sir—Your note of the 17th inst. is now before me, in which you state that you have been informed that Mr. Grundy in conversation with me had made some remarks prejudicial to your character—and you request me as nearly as possible to state the purport of the remarks, the words and impressions which Mr. Grundy appeared anxious to make. The conversation and remarks to which I presume you allude were not made individually to myself. I was some days since after the House had adjourned in the Representatives Hall, in company with several gentlemen, among the number present Dixon Allen Esq., Major Boling Gordon, Bailey Peyton Esq. of Gallatin and others not now recollected. Mr. Grundy and I think Mr. Foster was also in the Hall. A Jocular conversation took place between Mr. Grundy and others—Mr. Grundy remarked that something had been said in relation to Jacksonism, and which was the best administration man him or Mr. Foster—he said he would like to hear the evidence of their devotion—that he Mr. Grundy, could give strong evidence of his attachment and devotion to the administration—that he had voted for all General Jackson's nominations—that he had voted for that man Biddle's nomination, and that after voting for such a nomination he thought none would doubt *his* devotion to the administration—he thought you (using his own language) totally unfit for the office—but as you and him were both lawyers and resided in the same town, that he was compelled to go for the nomination in order to sustain the administration—but at the same time remarked that *we do not there take the same oath that you the members of the Legislature take here.*

I thought at the time the remarks were unguarded and imprudent—and I will here remark that I did not speak of the conversation, until called upon by some two or three gentlemen to repeat what I had heard Mr. Grundy say—which conversation and remarks I felt it my duty to make to them—and now to you in accordance with your request.

Respectfully yours,

RICHARD CHEATHAM.

To Col. Charles Biddle.

Nashville, September 1832.

To Charles Biddle Esq.

I received your note of the 17th inst. enquiring of me if Mr. Felix Grundy had not to me made some remarks prejudicial to your character, and also desiring to know the purport of those remarks, as also the impression he was desirous to make. As I have repeated a conversation held by Mr. Grundy to me, to some gentlemen, not wishing or intending the same should come to your knowledge, as the same may have been misrepresented to you I will state the conversation in substance and words as near as I can. In the Hall of the House of Representatives, after the House had adjourned, several of the members were sitting about in small groups, I walked near where Mr. Grundy was sitting and where he had been talking to some person,—I know Col. M'Farland was present and I think Governor Carroll. Mr. Grundy had been telling them something I had not heard; Mr. Grundy said, Mr. Huling I have just been telling these gentlemen that Mr. Foster and myself were considered Jackson men, and I suppose it to be true, but the question is who is the best Jackson man; he thought he could give evidence that he was a better Jackson man than him. Now (says he) for the proof, last winter General Jackson nominated to the Senate * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * Biddle as a Judge in the Floridas and I *voted* for him; now can Mr. Foster give as strong testimony as that—I looked surprized—he then said, *but recollect, Mr. Huling, I dont take the same oath that you do; I only take an oath to support the constitution of the United States—you swear that you will give no vote prejudicial to the interests of the people*—now, says he, can Mr. Foster give as strong evidence of his Jacksonism. * * * * * * * * * * * * *

The impression his conversation made on my mind was that his object was not to prejudice you, but to remove an impression that many have, and I as one, that his support of Jackson was not sincere and disinterested. This conversation in appearance was Jocular, but it struck me as intended for effect, to shew his devotedness to Jackson and to remove the doubts of his sincerity.

I am respectfully yours,

F. W. HULING.

Nashville 17*th September* 1832.

Sir—Your note of to-day is now before me, in which you state that you have been informed that Mr. Grundy, in a conversation with me, made some remarks prejudicial to your character. I will here state the conversation as near as I can recollect, and leave you to draw your own conclusions. Some days since Mr. Huling informed me that Mr. Grundy had stated to him or in his presence, that he believed he could give as strong proof of his Jacksonism as any of the candidates, and stated that when General Jackson nominated that * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * Biddle to be Judge he voted to confirm the nomination, knowing him to be unqualified. I was much surprised at hearing this, and the first opportunity that offered I enquired of Mr. Grundy if he had made the statement. He answered that he had in a jocular way said something of the kind. I asked him if he voted for nominations whether they were qualified or not; he answered that Policy sometimes made it right, *and said that he was not sworn as I was*; *he was only sworn to support the constitution of the United States.* I then asked Mr. Grundy if he did not recommend Mr. Biddle to the President, he answered he did as a man of talents, and so had all the Tennessee delegation he believed except Hugh L. White; but also stated that he did not recommend him as a Judge. Respectfully yours,

CHARLES WATKINS.

To Charles Biddle Esq.

Nashville October 6, 1832.

Dear Sir—Your note requesting us to state the remarks made by Mr. Grundy prejudicial to your character, and the impression he seemed anxious to make on our minds, has been received—as to the impressions &c. we cannot speak. The conversation alluded to was at the door of the Nashville Inn.—Something was said about Major Eaton's being a candidate for the Senate, Mr. Grundy observed "that there had been much said about Eaton being the best Jackson man, but that he (Mr. G.) had given as good evidence of his Jacksonism as any other

man could, that he had voted for that *fellow*, Biddle, for a Judge, knowing he was not fit, because Jackson had nominated him, which he considered going the whole Hog, ears, bristles, tail and all." He requested us to mention these facts if we should ever hear his Jacksonism doubted. These were his words as near as we can remember.

Yours respectfully,

LUCIUS J. POLK.
DIXON ALLEN.

To Col. C. Biddle,

[*Present.*]

P. S. Dixon Allen agrees perfectly with Gen'l. Cheatham in his statement of the conversation which took place in the House of Representatives.

Before making any comments upon the preceding documents, I wish to state one or two facts, which have not heretofore been mentioned, and will go far to show the causes which produced those malignant feelings which exist on the part of Mr. Grundy towards myself. Whilst the controversy for Senator was confined to Col. Foster and Mr. Grundy, he always spoke very confidently of his success, and he was of course extremely anxious to restrict, the legislature in their choice, within those narrow limits. My own notions on the subject being rather more expanded, I took the liberty, so far back as the month of May or June last, without the knowledge or consent of Major Eaton, (during his absence to the north) to present his name before the public as a suitable person to represent this state in the Senate of the United States; and, although the publications then made were under an anonymous signature, yet the active politicians of this city knew the source from whence they emanated, as perfectly well as if my own name had been attached to them. I was severely rebuked by writers in the newspapers for my presumption in attempting to en-

croach upon ground already occupied by Messrs. Foster and Grundy, and was told that it was too late for a third candidate. Still I was not convinced, and therefore I was denounced as a heretick.

I will now state an occurrence of a more recent date, which excited Mr Grundy's rage to such a degree as deprived him of his usual cunning, and was the proximate cause of his denouncing me in the most unmeasured terms before the members of the legislature. On the evening *preceding* the day in which Mr. Grundy held his conversation with Messrs. Huling, Cheatham and others, I returned to the city from a visit to Major Eaton, who was a few miles in the country, and on my return, I publicly announced John H. Eaton a candidate for Senator of the United States. This threw the enemy's camp into the utmost consternation, and the herald, who was the bearer of such gloomy intelligence, was destined by the Grundy faction to be sacrificed upon the altar of their unhallowed ambition. With such feelings, they would not have hesitated to accuse and convict me, *under oath*, of a violation of the ten commandments, provided their oaths were limited to a *support of the Constitution.*

After a calm and attentive perusal of the letter of Mr. Grundy, together with those of the members of Assembly, what are the reflections which they force upon the mind of every thinking man? They are calculated, in my opinion, to produce *contempt* for his prevarications, *horror* at his opinions about the obligations of an oath, *pity* for the abject condition to which a Senator is reduced, and *alarm* at the appalling truth, that a portion of the power of the government should be placed in the hands of any man who could excite in our breasts the combined feelings of contempt, horror and pity.

As to the prevarications of Mr. Grundy, they consist

in his making use of the most vile aspersions upon my character, at a time when he expected they would produce a favorable impression upon the legislature, and afterwards denying, under his own signature, that he had ever "used or applied any opprobrious epithets to me personally." He says to the members of the legislature, "I claim to be a whole-hog Jackson man, because I voted for that fellow Biddle;" and he turns immediately to me and says, "your talents and character induced me to vote for your nomination as Judge of Florida." Can such conduct be reconciled with the character of an honorable man? I think but few of his constituents will approve such duplicity. Although the letters, as published, do not contain most of the offensive phrases used by Mr. Grundy, yet they are at all times subject to the inspection of those who may doubt the malignity and intemperance which characterised his conduct.

It can scarcely be considered necessary, in a christian community, to waste the time of the public in proving the solemn obligations imposed by *oaths*, in which the Searcher of all Hearts is invoked to witness our sincerity and truth; and it might be deemed insulting to the good sense and patriotism of the people, in a republican government, to advance arguments in favor of a strict adherence to the public interests, by the agents of their own appointment. Without pretending, therefore, to discuss these self-evident propositions, let us compare the principles avowed by Mr. Grundy, with those conscientious motives and rules of action, which ought to influence virtuous citizens, whether in public or private stations.

By reference to the letter of Mr. Huling it will be seen, that after that gentleman had expressed his surprise at Mr. Grundy's avowal of his reasons for voting upon my nomination, the Senator adds, "*but recollect Mr. Huling*,

I do not take the same oath that you do; I only take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, you swear that you will give no vote contrary to the interests of the people."

This is, in effect saying, like Shylock in the play, "the words are not in the bond;' and Mr. Grundy therefore, considered himself at liberty to sacrifice the *interests of the people*, because he was not *specially* sworn to support them!

Citizens of Tennessee, let me ask whether you will commit into the hands of such a man the dearest rights of your country, and perhaps its very existence as an independent nation? Is it not probable, that Mr. Grundy would advocate *nullification* upon the ground that he is not *sworn* to resist that dangerous doctrine? He certainly appears to have a very confused sense of the implied obligation which every citizen, with or without an oath, owes to his country to promote her rights and maintain her interests. If any man, at the very moment of soliciting the votes of his fellow citizens for a re-election as Senator of the United States, could deliberately assert his freedom from every restraint not *specifically* imposed upon him by oath, what security can the people have for his good conduct, when placed six years beyond their control?

If we are a moral and religious people, and are anxious to preserve the purity of our political institutions, it is time to dismiss from the councils of the nation, men whose principles hang so loosely about them, as to be shaken off whenever private interests shall come in conflict with public duty—men, who, to use Mr. Grundy's language to Major Watkins, think, that "*policy sometimes makes right*," actions which are morally, religiously and politically wrong.

In the midst of so many causes of regret and mortification, which Mr. Grundy's conduct is calculated to produce upon the minds of reflecting men, it is cheering to find one part of it which must involuntarily create *a smile*, I mean his presumption in attempting to pronounce sentence upon the qualifications of any man for a *judicial station*. Mr. G. was a young man in the infancy of the western States, when almost the only road to preferment lay through the log court houses of the country, and when what is called Lynch's law, (the law of force) was studied with much more assiduity than the pages of Coke, Bacon or Blackstone. During that period, the man who could most artfully select a jury to suit his client's purposes, and who succeded best in influencing the prejudices of the ignorant portion of the community, *always made money*. Many of Mr. Grundy's contemporaries left this field of strife, retired to their libraries, and there prepared themselves for the altered condition of society which was fairly anticipated, from the immense tide of emigration to the west. Mr. Grundy *alone* remained stationary, and he now holds the same rank with his professional brethren which he did thirty years ago; and how could it be otherwise with a man who never reads a book, and whose whole time, for many years previous to his election as a Senator, had been occupied, either in the defence of horse thieves, counterfeiters and murderers, or in the degrading broils of a county or state election.

I can safely assert, that during the whole course of the late excitement, I studiously avoided mingling political with personal considerations, although frequently furnished with materials from which they might have been advantageously combined to the prejudice of Mr. Grundy. It formed, however, no part of my scheme of politics, to

erect any other tribunal for the trial of public officers than that of public opinion; nor to resort for evidence to the reminiscences of private enemies in order to sustain a charge of public defalcation. If Mr. Grundy and his friends had confined themselves within the same limits, much of that rancorous feeling which now exists, would never have been engendered, and the harmony of social intercourse would not have been so materially interrupted as it has been. His letter to me of the 12th ultimo, exhibits a melancholy instance of the miserable shifts to which trading politicians will occasionally resort, in order to screen themselves from public odium. To that letter I again request the reader's particular attention, and he will there find "a grave Senator" endeavoring to apologise for his follies and indiscretions, by asserting that they were committed in his *jocular* moments. Now, it does appear to me, that a *jocular* and *jesting* Senator, should, at the present crisis of our public affairs, yield his station to some patriotic citizen, who would *seriously* reflect upon the value of the Union and endeavor to preserve it. The political institutions of our country are of too sacred a character to become the *jest* of every *jocular* charlatan, who may for a season have succeeded in blinding the judgment of the people.

I am the publics' obedient servant,

CHARLES BIDDLE.

Nashville, October 17, 1832.

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